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Message Text

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71
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 DODE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 /098 W
---------- 025905
R 241045Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8024

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1413

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR BM
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EQUIPMENT OFFER

REF: A) STATE 098555
B) STATE 103848
C) RANGOON 1412

1. DCM TODAY DELIVERED AIDE-MEMOIRE, REFTEL C, TO MFA DIRECTOR-GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL & ECONOMICS DEPT., U PYI SOE, AND U KYAW, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPT. AFTER READING AIDE-MEMOIRE, U PYI SOE EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT RESPONSE TO MFA'S NOTE OF MAY 8, AND COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON FIRST PARA WHICH PROPOSED THAT GUB CONSIDER CERTAIN INFORMATION BEFORE DECIDING ON SENDING OR RECEIVING OF TECHNICAL TEAM. "THIS SHOULD MAKE MATTERS MOVE MORE QUICKLY." DRAWING ON REFTEL A, DCM EX-PRESSED THE USG'S WISH TO BE FLEXIBLE IN MEETING GUB NEEDS IN EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME-FRAME.

2. CONCERNING THE OFFER OF TWO HELICOPTER TYPES, U PYI SOE NOTED, "WE HAVE 4 OR 5 HUSKIES AND HUSKIES MIGHT BE EASIER FOR US." HE ALSO NOTED WITH PLEASURE THAT HUSKIE DELIVERY TIME WAS 6 MONTHS. HERE, DCM CALLED ATTENTION TO AIDE-MEMOIRE AND CAUTIONED THAT ONE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UNPREDICTABLE DELAYS IN DELIVERY TO BURMA. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT MORE EXPEDITIOUS DELIVERY SCHEDULES, PERHAPS BY FERRYING, COULD BE CONSIDERED AS REPORTED REFTEL B.
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3. U KYAW, STUDYING THE AIDE-MEMOIRE, INQUIRED IF OV-10'S HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN OUR ORIGINAL OFFER. DCM ACKNOWLEDGED THIS TO BE SO BUT SAID WE HAD CONSLUDED FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH GUB OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GENERAL TIN OO, THAT HELICOPTERS WERE THE PREFERRED AIRCRAFT. U PYI SOE STATED THAT HE HAD ALWAYS PREFERRED HELICOPTERS AND WAS GLAD TO SEE THE OFFER OF HUEYS AND HUSKIES.

4. IN CLOSING, DCM SAID THAT EMBASSY HAD SUBMITTED TEXT OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR WASHINGTON'S REVIEW AND COMMENTS (REFTEL B) AND WAS HOPING TO BE ABLE TO RELAY SAME TO THE GUB SOON.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM OF GOODWILL, EMBASSY REQUESTS EARLIEST POSSIBLE COMMENTS ON DRAFT AGREEMENT. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME AMPLIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S MENTION (PARA 3 REFTEL B) OF "APPROPRIATE MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTING PROJECT."
OSBORN

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